

24. (Previously Presented) A respiratory mask and headgear combination according to claim 23, wherein said release portion comprises a raised portion adjacent a trailing end of said cantilever member.

25. (Previously Presented) A respiratory mask and headgear combination according to claim 24, wherein a space is provided immediately behind said trailing end of the cantilever member.

26. (Previously Presented) A respiratory mask and headgear combination according to claim 23, wherein said locking portion comprises at least one lug on a forward surface of said cantilever member, said lug engaging a corresponding socket of said first connector portion.

27. (Previously Presented) A respiratory mask and headgear combination according to claim 21, wherein said first and second connector portions are structured to be spaced forwardly of the patient's face by said rigid mask frame.

28. (Previously Presented) A respiratory mask for use with a headgear having male connectors thereon, each of the male connector portions including at least one resiliently biased locking element, the respiratory mask comprising:

a mask frame; and

a pair of female connector portions formed in one piece with the mask frame and being configured to receive the male connector portions therein.